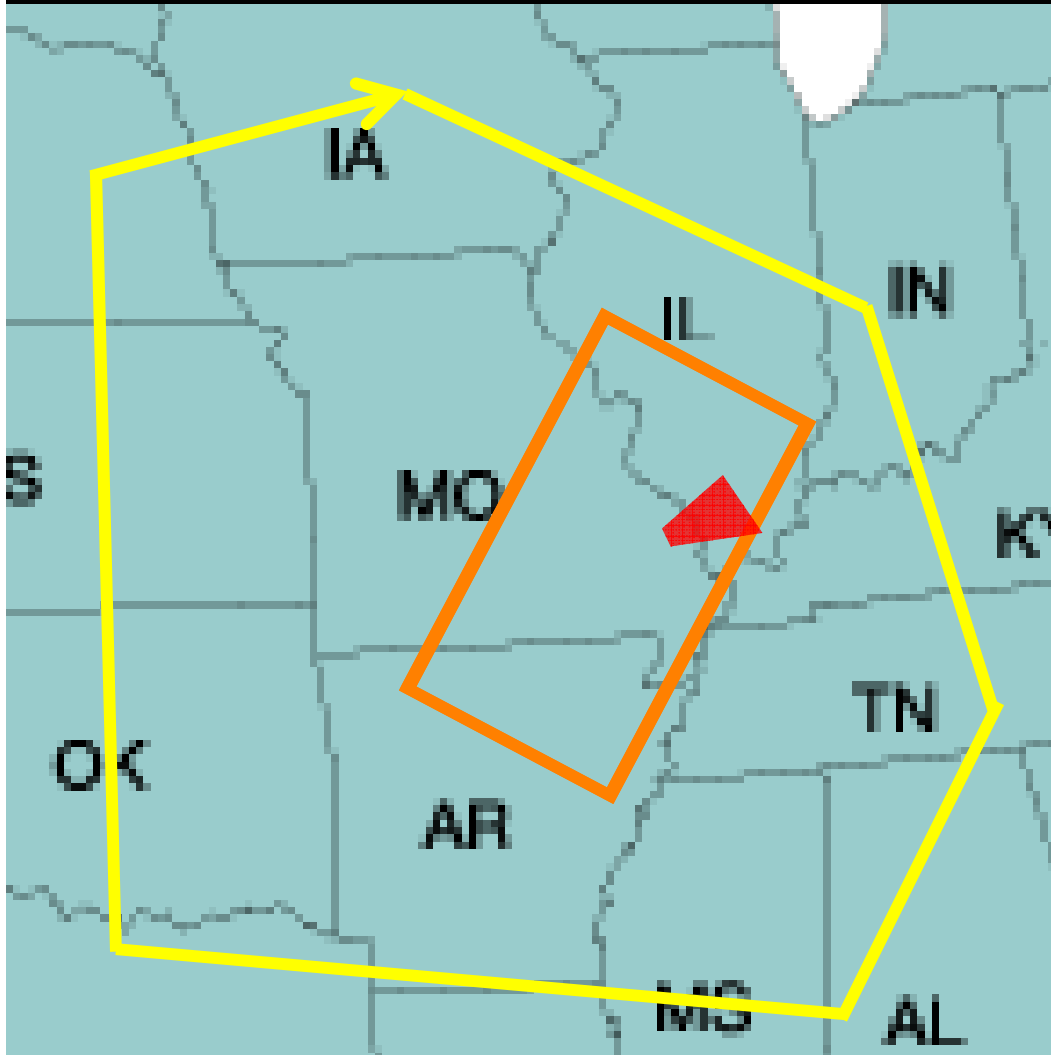


How do you decide if you are needed?

- Do your best to make yourself familiar with the potential for severe weather – Make it a daily ritual.
- Start each day briefing yourself on the weather – when is there a threat for severe weather?
- Utilize your favorite source – local TV, NOAA Weather Radio, internet etc.
- Prepare staffing/plans/contacts as needed



NWS Products Issued for Severe Weather



Outlook (SPC/NWS HWO)

- SPC has outlooks out to 7 days
- NWS Hazardous Weather Outlook spans 7 days as well
- General idea of area and what is expected

Watch (SPC)

- 2-6 hours in advance
- More specific threat, area, and timing

Warning (NWS Paducah)

- 15-60 minutes in advance
- Very specific threat, area, and timing

OUTLOOK STAGE:

Keeping ahead of the game

Planning ahead is the key! Don't get caught off guard!

Know what is expected:

- Check the latest forecast and other NWS products (AFD, HWO, etc)
- Check SPC convective outlook
- Check NWS Paducah website for any conference call recordings

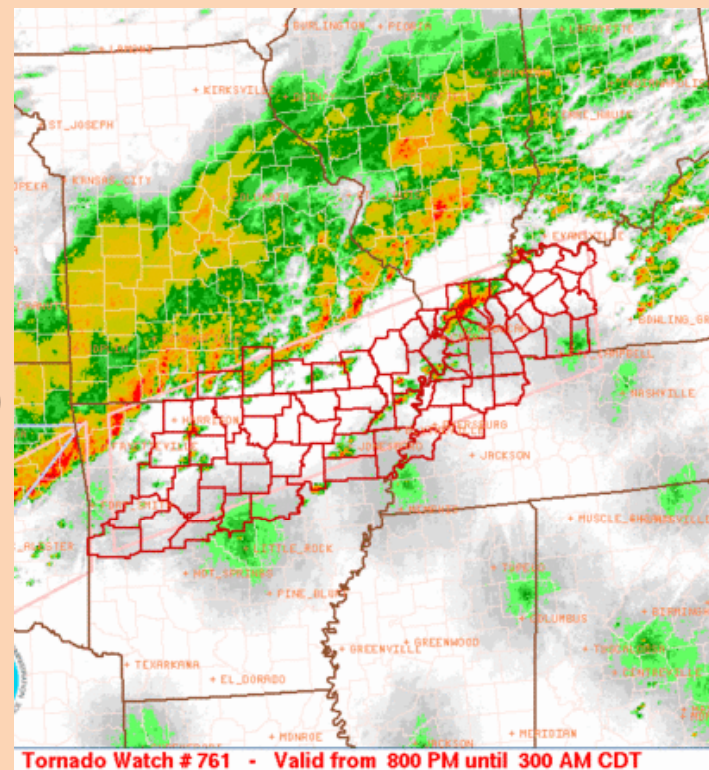
Find out:

- What's the main threat?
- When is the best chance?
- Where is it expected to happen?



WATCH STAGE

- Check for skywarn spotter activation message on NOAA Weather Radio (usually broadcast after a watch is issued)
- Check SPC website for any MCDs or updated convective outlooks
- Check radar for any thunderstorm development. If storms have developed, check LSRs (local storm reports) from other offices to see what types of severe weather are already occurring.
- Look out for short term forecasts, which might hint at potential areas for development.
- Check for updated Area Forecast Discussions, HWO, and public forecasts.
- If a member of NWS Chat, log on! (Must be a member of EMA, media, or govt partner)
- Log onto E-Spotter to check for any messages



MESSAGES FOR YOU (paducah@mail.com)

COUNTY WIDE MESSAGES (McCracken)

COUNTY WARNING AREA WIDE MESSAGES (PAH)

10/08/2009 06:40 CST (12:40 UTC)	FYI	Spotters...looks like heavy rain is going to be our main threat over the next 24 or so hours. However...SPC has outlooked our area in a slight risk for today and into tonight. Damaging winds and isolated tornadoes appear possible...especially in parts of southeast MO, far southwest IL and extreme west KY. However, there are some limiting factors as to how things will play out later today. Spotters are urged to relay rainfall amounts throughout the next 24 hrs, but also remain alert for possible activation later on this afternoon. - CW
-------------------------------------	-----	--



National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office

Paducah, KY

weather.gov



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☐ NWS ☐ All NOAA

Local forecast by
"City, St" or Zip Code

City, St

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Activity Planner

Aviation Weather

Fire Weather

Severe Weather

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Hydrology

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Severe Weather

Latest Local Hazardous Weather Outlook

Day 1



Day 2



Day 3



Mesoscale Discussion



SPC Activity Chart



SPC Mesoanalysis Chart



Showing a 1 hour radar loop, the current Day 1 convective outlook, and all active watches.

Click on the image for a detailed look at severe weather parameters for various sectors across the county.

Rainfall

Latest Local Hydrologic Outlook

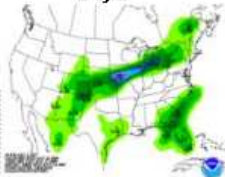
Days 1-3

Excessive rainfall

Day 1



Day 2



Day 3



Day 4-5



Excessive Rainfall



weather.gov/pah



NOAA's National Weather Service

Storm Prediction Center

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Local forecast by
"City, St" or "ZIP"

UTC/GMT/Zulu Time
15:42:28

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Top News of the Day

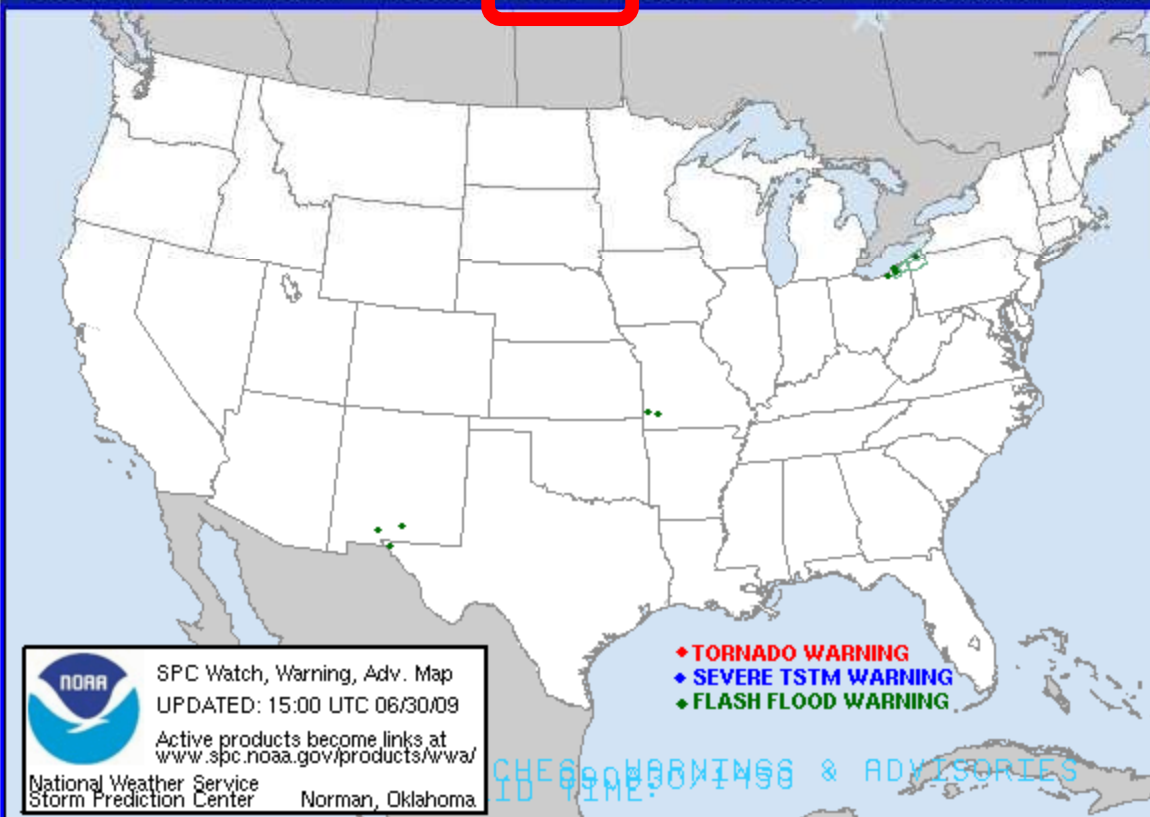


The following Mesoscale Discussions are currently in effect:

1378...

More news items below the overview graphic. Updated: 2009-06-30 10:00:08 CDT

[Overview](#) | [Conv. Outlooks](#) | [Watches](#) | **[MDs](#)** | [WWA](#) | [Reports](#) | [Mesoanalysis](#) | [Fire](#)



Hazard	Tue (06/30)	Wed (07/01)	Thu (07/02)	Fri (07/03)	Sat (07/04)	Sun (07/05)	Mon (07/06)	Tue (07/07)
Severe	Slight	Slight	See Text	No Area	No Area	No Area	No Area	No Area
Fire	No Critical	No Critical	No Area	No Area	No Area	No Area	No Area	No Area

Click on the hazard matrix cell to navigate to the specific forecast.

MDs:
Mesoscale
Discussion



NOAA's National Weather Service

Storm Prediction Center

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Local forecast by
"City, St" or "ZIP"

City, St

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- Our History
- Public Affairs

Misc.

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- SPC Feedback



Current Mesoscale Discussions

Updated: Tue Jun 30 15:35:03 UTC 2009



Mesoscale Discussion #1378

Issued: 30/1457 UTC

Until: 30/1630 UTC

Concerning: **SEVERE POTENTIAL...WATCH
LIKELY**

MESOSCALE DISCUSSIONS

Click on the graphic on the
map OR the graphic below
for more information



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Norman, OK Wx

research

Non-op. Products

Forecast Tools

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Education & Outreach

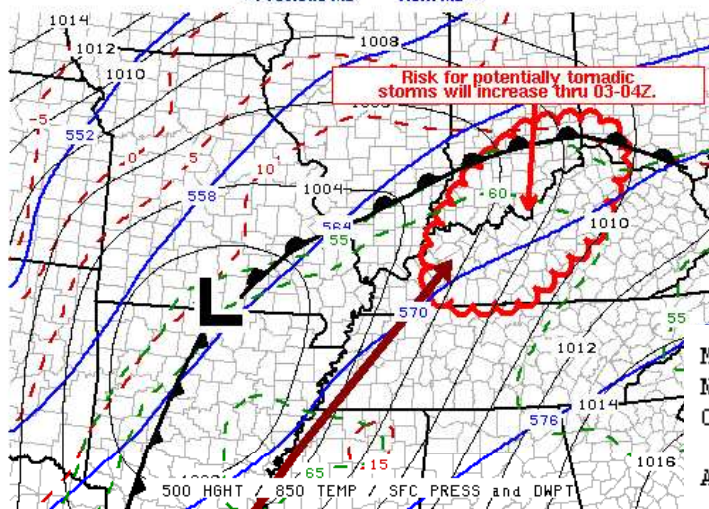
About the SPC

SPC FAQ

About Tornadoes

Mesoscale Discussion 167

< Previous MD Next MD >



WARNING STAGE

- **Monitor:**

- NOAA Weather Radio for warnings and statements.
- NWS radar with warnings overlaid.
- Any LSRs (local storm reports) issued by our office.
- Updated forecasts, AFDs, and HWOs
- E-Spotter, NWS Chat

Call us with your reports!
1-800-533-7189





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National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office

National Weather Service Paducah, KY

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"City, St" or Zip

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Watches, Warnings, Advisories (Click to zoom)

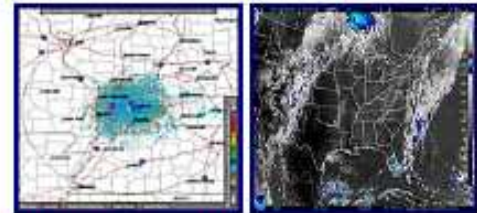


Last map update: Mon, Aug. 24, 2009 at 3:45:59 pm CDT

Read watches,
warnings &
advisories

Hazardous Weather
Outlook

Radar and Satellite (Click for larger image)



Tornado Warning(s)

None

Severe Thunderstorm Warning(s)

None

Flash Flood Warning(s)

None

Local Links

Hazardous Weather Outlook

Local Storm Reports

Rivers & Lakes (AHPS)

E-Spotter

Office Home

Region - National

Convective Outlooks

Mesoscale Discussions

Current Watches

Storm Reports

Excessive Rainfall

Flood Outlook

U.S. Hazards

Weather Safety

Quantitative Precipitation Forecasts (QPF)

Afternoon



Night



Night



Where do you find information?

NOAA Radio All-Hazards

- Continuous weather 24/7/365
- All Hazards Warning Network
- All forecast information will be the latest.
- Most direct way to receive warnings
- Recommend programmable SAME radios
- “Smoke Detector of Severe Weather”



REPORTING TO THE NWS

REPORTS
ONLY!!

Severe Weather Spotter Line

REPORTS
ONLY!!

1-800-533-7189

- There is **ALWAYS** someone available to take your call; never be afraid to pick up the phone to make your report.
- The quicker you get the report to us, the quicker we can disseminate that information to the public and media outlets.



REPORT...REPORT...REPORT!

- Always report what you see as accurately and concisely as possible.
- Use references to nearby towns as much as possible in addition to roads.
- Try not to make assumptions about what you see.
- Tell us your uncertainty if you have any.
- If you are not sure about something, call and tell us what you are seeing.



1-800-533-7189

What Makes A Bad Report

➤ **Ambiguous Reports:** The effectiveness of reports is governed by whether correct information can be relayed to the NWS in a manner the staff can use.

➤ **Low Hanging Clouds**

➤ **High Wind**

➤ **Flooding**

➤ **Rotation**

➤ **Marble Size Hail**



Ambiguous or bad reports raise questions and cause confusion

Hail and Wind Speed Reports Measured or Estimated???

- It is very important to dictate whether you are measuring or estimating.
- Incorrect estimations may lead to poor warnings!

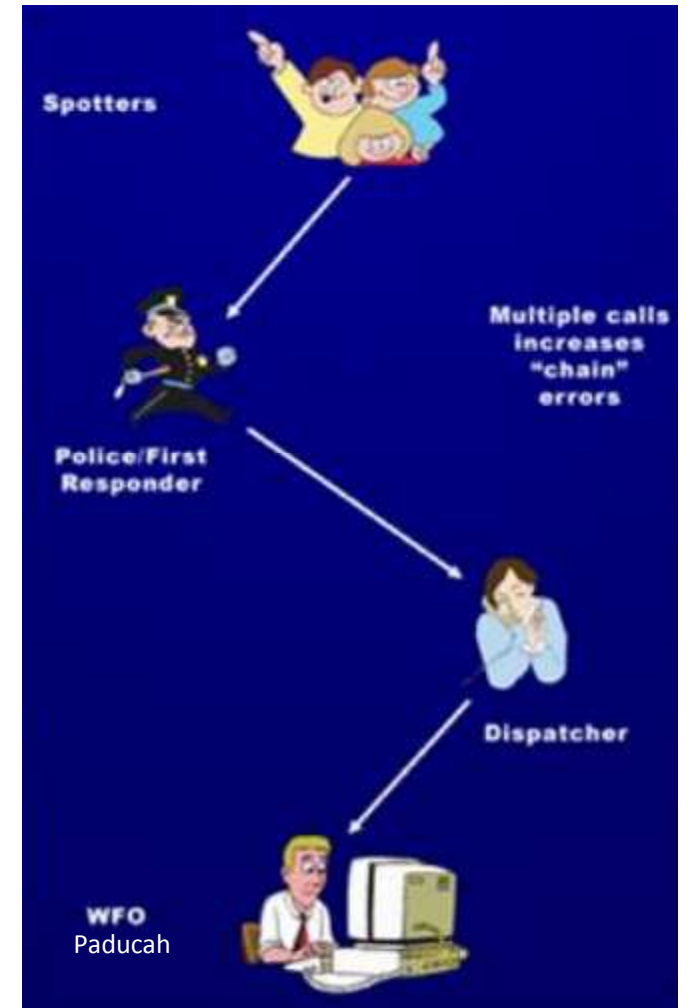


1-800-533-7189

Communication

- Increasing amounts of erroneous reports in recent years.
- Some of this might be due to “chain error”. The more people in the “chain”, the greater the errors. *(Ever play the game telephone as a kid?)*
- When possible, call directly into our office with your report.

1-800-533-7189



A Little Exercise

- Information provided:
 - “I’m near the factory. I have big limbs down and numerous trees have been uprooted.”
- What information did you receive?
- Was it accurate?
- What questions would you like to ask?
- What would have clarified the message?

LOST REPORTS



- Sometimes reports are out there, but they are not relayed to our office.

- MEDIA reports (TV, radio etc)

- Weather blogs, facebook, twitter etc.

- Reports bottlenecked at dispatch.

- Spotters in the field with no cell phone service.

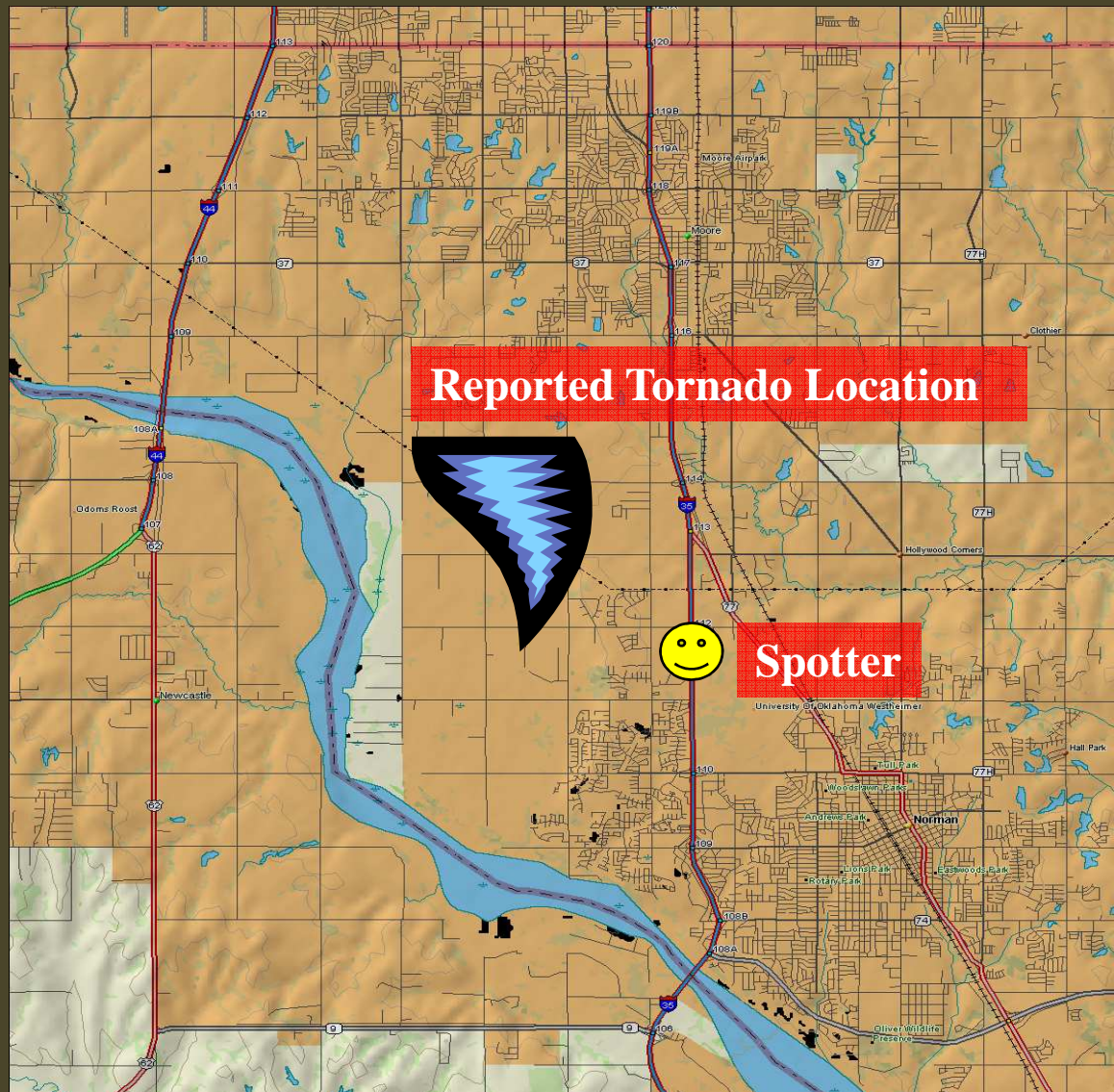
- People forget to call or feel reluctant to call the NWS.

1-800-533-7189

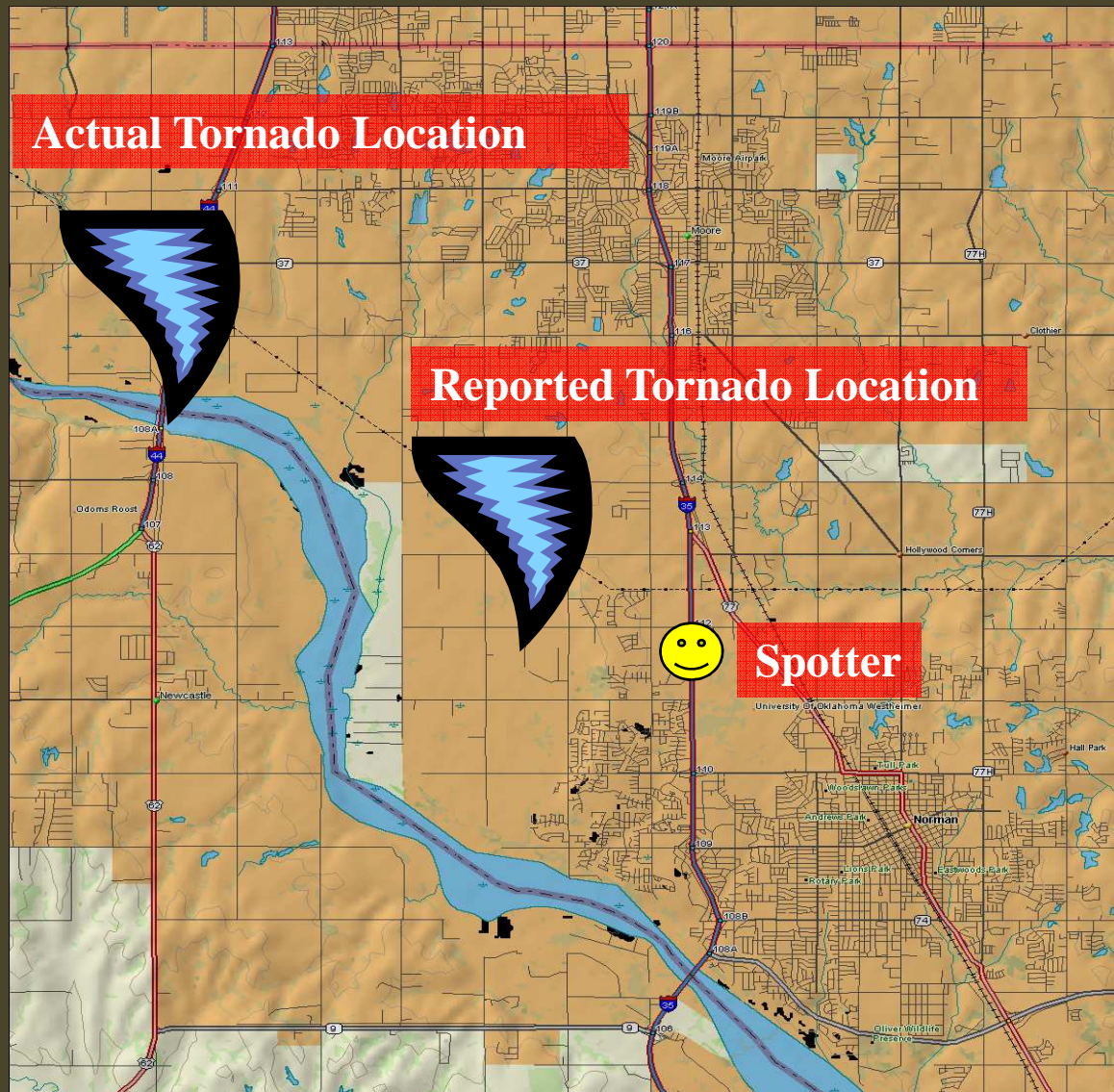
If you are storm spotting from a regular location, know each of your landmarks and measure the direction and distances between your designated location and those landmarks.



History has shown that a hazard is usually twice as far away as a spotter may think.

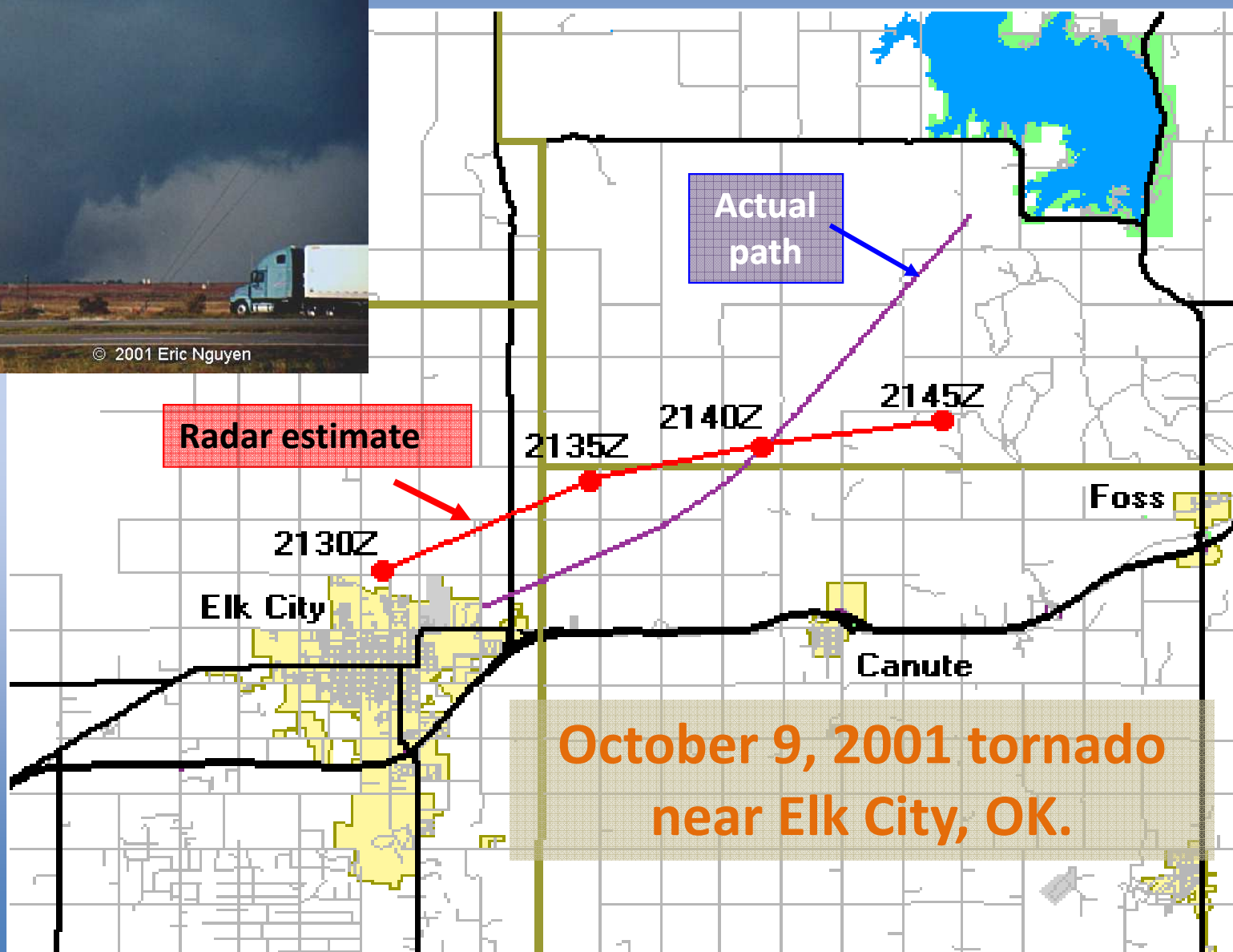


**Spotter Reports Their Location and
Estimates Location of Tornado (Dir/Distance)**



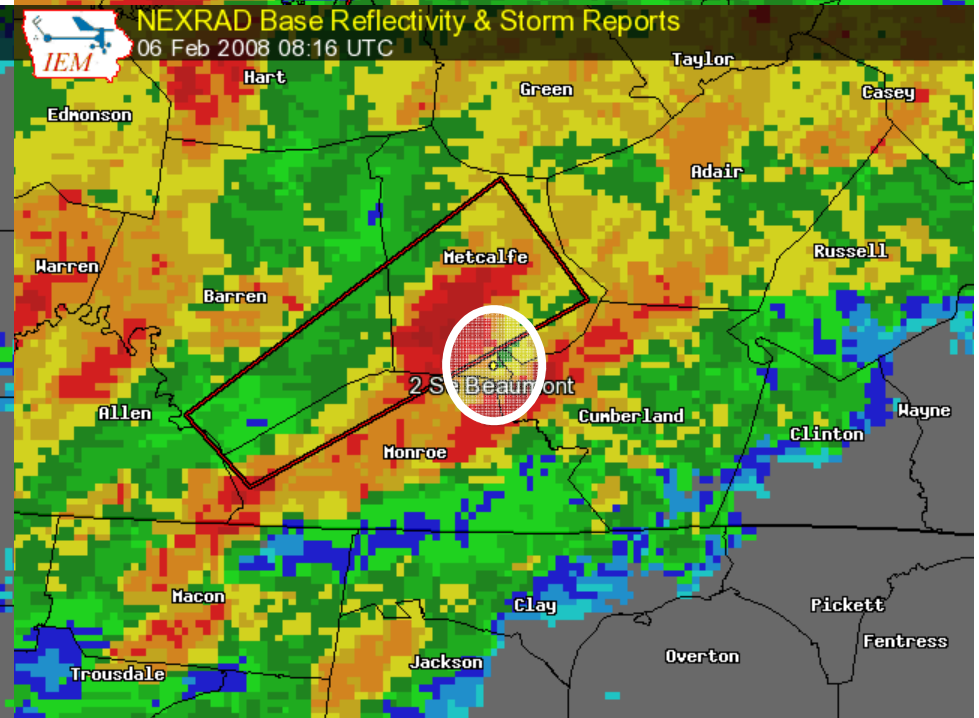
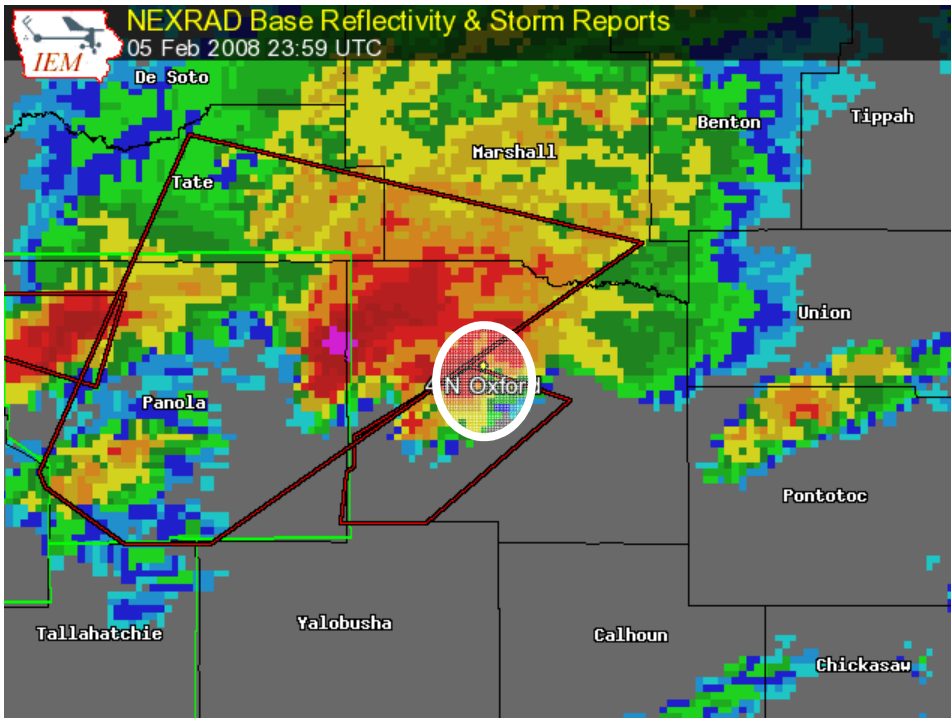
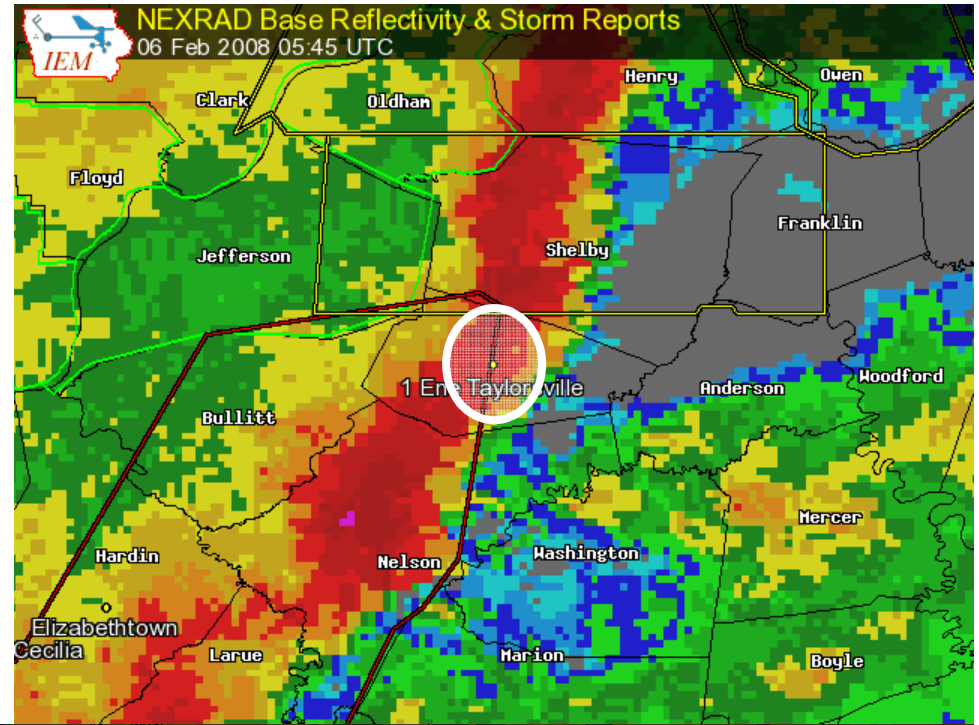
Keep Distance Errors in Mind – Know your Area/Landmarks

Radar estimates can be off sometimes...



Storm-Based Warnings

- Exact location of storm reports is very important
- Sometimes even a difference in a mile or two can make a difference!



Send us your photos/videos

National Weather Service
8250 Kentucky Highway 3520
West Paducah, KY 42086-9762

w-pah.webmaster@noaa.gov



If you are going to send us a picture of hail either by email or U.S. mail, please lay it next to a ruler so we can see exactly what size it is. Sending us digital pictures or normal photos of weather events or damage is encouraged. Please date and label your photos.